

LITERARY NOTES.

The memoir of Thurlow Weed, by his grandson Thurlow Weed Barnes, is now passing through the press and will be issued about the first of February. It is designed to supplement the autobiography of Mr. Weed, which appeared a few months ago, being devoted largely to the period between 1840 and 1882. One of its most interesting features will consist of letters never before printed from Clay, Webster, Lincoln, Seward and others.

The issue of *The Youth's Companion* for February 7 will contain the first of a series of papers by Miss Mayne Dickens, giving reminiscences of her father, the novelist. She refers with tender feeling to his love of children: "I can see him now through the mist of years, with a child nearly always on his knee, his bright and beautiful eyes full of life and fun. I can hear his clear and sweet voice as he spoke to those children, as if he had no other occupation in the world but to amuse them . . . At juvenile parties he was always the ruling spirit."

He had acquired by degrees an excellent collection of conjuring tricks, and on Twelfth Nights—the eldest son's birthday—he would very often, dressed as a magician, give a conjuring entertainment, when a little figure which appeared from a wonderful and mysterious bag, and which was supposed to be a personal friend of the conjuror, would greatly delight the audiences by his funny stories, his eccentric voice and way of speaking, and by his miraculous appearances and disappearances. Of course a plum pudding was made in a hat, and was always one of the great successes of the evening."

Beginning on February 1 next, Charles Scribner's Sons will issue *The Book Buyer*, a monthly literary journal containing a concise summary of American and foreign literature. The editor has arranged to print a London correspondence, which will be furnished by Mr. Charles Welford. The subscription price of the periodical will be 50 cents per year.

A thousand copies of Mr. Putnam's edition of *Ella* have gone to England.

It is said that for every novel printed and published in England ten are written and rejected. This makes an average of three thousand novels which are written in that country every year.

The first volume of Michelot's "Memoirs" is just coming from the press in Paris. It deals with his childhood and early youth.

The most important new publications of this week are Schliemann's "Troja" (Harper & Bros.); Henry James' "Portraits of Places" (J. R. Osgood & Co.); and Courthope's "Addison" (Harper & Bros.).

A delicate little sonnet by Jones Very which was inspired by the wild roses at Plymouth has been found among the papers of a friend. It is thought that it is new to the readers of Very's grave and sweet verse:

THE WILD ROSE OF PLYMOUTH.

Upon the Plymouth shore where rose blossoms

Are with the roses blushed in the sun;

And scents the air with sweet perfumes,

Though new this hour, more ancient for they;

More ancient than the wild yet truly race

That round the hills in the bright green came,

And still the rose is there, a dwelling place,

Now known to history but by name,

Telling this summer's past it springs,

And still the rose is there, a dwelling place,

That stretch beyond, even to the verge of time.

Is such the Pilgrim's fate, Indian's doom,

While thou, who art, shall still immortal bloom?

Salem, June 26, 1852.

"The history of a line of poetry," says *The Pall Mall Gazette*, "is sometimes curious. Apropos of the recent parody of a poem by Tennyson which appeared in this paper, a correspondent informs us that in American editions 'The grand old gardener' was substituted, and ran through some editions; later on the poet reverted to 'The gardener Adam,' who now reigns supreme, and doubtless will reappear in the forthcoming edition of Messrs. Macmillan & Co."

The origin of "That Lass o' Lowrie's" has been described by its author to a correspondent of *The Cleveland Leader*. "The character" Mrs. Burnett said, "was taken from a strong handsome woman, among the miners in the village where I lived with my parents before I came to America. I was a very little girl at the time, not more than seven or eight years old, but I can remember her perfectly, she was such a contrast to the others with whom she was associated. They were ordinary miners, she seemed like a queen among them. I was at the time too young to appreciate that she was beautiful. My idea of beauty then was of the china doll order, pink cheeks and delicate features. I had not yet conceived the nobler kind of beauty, but as I grew older after leaving this place and thinking over this woman I perceived that she was really beautiful. She was finely formed, stately in her movements, and her neck was as graceful as that of the Venus of Milo. I used as a child to watch her with great interest, and when she would pass my father's gate for some time, I remember that I would almost long for her. In later years I wrote around her the story of 'That Lass o' Lowrie's.'

A classified series of articles of real value from the venerable *Gentleman's Magazine* will be brought out in England as rapidly as can be effected. The first volume, which has just appeared, is a very attractive one, reproducing as it does the best and most suggestive articles on manners and customs printed in the magazine between 1731 and 1868. Mr. George Lawrence Gomme, the editor, has added many instructive notes, and the series promises to be especially interesting to the student and writer. Just ninety years ago there appeared in the *Gentleman's Magazine* a paragraph from the pen of Gibbon, in which he pointed out that if a proper choice and classification were made of the innumerable articles of real value which lay buried in what is now called "padding," but which the historian styled a "heap of temporary rubbish," the result would be beneficial in more ways than one. The idea has never been properly carried out until now.

It is said that a co-operative publishing company of authors is to be organized in England for the distribution of the "grasping British publisher."

All English critics do not impugn the accuracy of Mr. R. G. White's observations in England as conveyed to the public through his recent work, *The London Freeman* says: "Mr. Washington Adams" is one of the easiest and wittiest "importations" we have received from America for a long time. Mr. White has shown in previous works how accurately he has observed our English society and customs. The vein of fine sentiment which runs throughout his works is here lighted up with broad, genial humor. His burlesque is mimetic and his sarcasm trenchant. The main purpose of his story is to expose the shallow and ignorant ideas of American life and character which prevail (we can scarcely say throughout England, but) among the upper classes of England. Lord Toppington is no doubt a typical character, so, too, are the occupants of Boreham Hall. The manner in which Humphries contrives to send to Toppington Priory a specimen of a "real American" is delightfully amusing. The caricature of American life, which in this country is too often taken for the real thing, is singularly effective. If the author laughs at us we have certainly exposed ourselves to his ridicule, and his resentful does but prove that he has the old English blood in his veins.

Mr. W. S. Norris's short story in a recent number of *The Independent* is full of a neat satire worthy of the author of "Matrimony." The selfishness of the worldly old woman who tells the story is skilfully and amusingly shown.

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